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CONT.

a brace forming a closed loop that presents at least three inside contact points, the three inside contact points delineating a support circle for contacting the shaft and supporting the woodwind musical instrument, the brace further comprising at least two distinct connection sections, wherein ends of the strap are connected to the connection sections without any portions of the strap intruding into the support circle.

2. (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the connection sections are formed opposite each other on the brace.

3. (Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein ends of the strap are tied around the connection sections.

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4. (Amended) The device of claim 1, in which the closed loop presents an internal surface that is tapered to match an upwardly expanding diameter of the woodwind musical instrument.

5 (Amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the tapered internal surface supports the woodwind musical instrument.

6. (Amended) A device for supporting a woodwind musical instrument on a user, comprising:

    a strap for looping around a neck of the user; and  
    a brace forming a closed loop for receiving the instrument therein, the brace further forming two openings distinct from each other, in which ends of the strap are passed through the openings and prevented from exiting therefrom, without any portion of the strap intruding in the closed loop,

    wherein the closed loop comprises an internal surface that is tapered to match an upwardly expanding diameter of a shaft of the woodwind musical instrument.

7. (Amended) The device of claim 6, wherein the tapered internal surface supports the woodwind musical instrument.

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8. (Amended) The device of claim 6, in which the brace is shaped such that the internal surface of the closed loop is cylindrical and provides multiple contact points for contacting the shaft and supporting the woodwind musical instrument.

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9. The device of claim 6, in which the brace further includes a skirt transverse to a plane of the tying openings.

10. (Amended) The device of claim 9, further comprising ribs extending between the skirt and the closed loop.

11. (Amended) The device of claim 6, in which the woodwind musical instrument is a recorder.

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12. (Amended) The device of claim 11, in which the recorder is a two-piece recorder being separable at a separation point along the shaft thereof, and wherein the shaft of the two-piece recorder gradually increases in diameter from the separation point to a mouth piece end.

13. (Amended) A method for making a support device for a woodwind instrument comprising:

procuring a woodwind instrument;

procuring a strap having two ends;

procuring a brace forming a closed loop that presents at least three inside contact points, the inside contact points delineating a support circle for supporting the woodwind instrument therein; and

attaching the two ends of the strap to respective tying sections of the brace such that no portion of the strap intrudes into the support circle.

14. The method of claim 13, in which attaching one of the ends includes tying a knot around the tying section.

15. The method of claim 13, in which a tying section includes a tying opening, and attaching includes passing the end of the strap through the tying opening, and then enlarging it to prevent it from being withdrawn from the tying opening.

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16. The device of claim 15, in which the end is enlarged by being heated.
17. The device of claim 15, in which the end is enlarged by being tied in a knot upon itself.